

BALTIMORE CITY--COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION

CDBG SURVEY YEAR: 12

SURVEY NO.: B-3983

AREA: Madison Square-Oliver Historic District MAGI NO.: 0439835708

ADDRESS: 1700 N. Caroline St.

CURRENT NAME: Zion Baptist Church

BLOCK: 1107 LOT: 43

LOT SIZE: 79'-1" x 90'

HEIGHT: 2 stories

MATERIALS: Stone

CONDITION: Good

OWNER: Zion Baptist Church, Inc.

ADDRESS: 1700 N. Caroline St.

USE: Religious

ACCESSIBLE: Yes; restricted

DESIGNATION:

LIBER/FOLIO: MLP 9602-177



HISTORIC NAME: The English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation

DATE: 1914

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: John Edward Laferty/John Hiltz & Sons

STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE): Gothic revival

DESCRIPTION:

The Lutheran Church of the Reformation, located at 1700 N. Caroline st., at the corner of Lanvale st. in Baltimore City, is a two-story with raised basement gable-roofed, coursed rock-faced ashlar building with aisles and a tower. The facade on Caroline st. is five bays wide, the first from right proper being a three-story tower with four risers leading to a lancet-arched double door. The third story has a lancet-arched window with wooden tracery, and the top of the tower has battlements. The second, third, and fourth bays are on the gable end of the church, with a large lancet window in the third bay. The fifth bay is three stories with a flat roof. The first story has lancet-arched double doors, the second has one rectangular window, and the third two rectangular windows. The Lanvale st. elevation is six bays wide, the sixth being the tower, and identical to the Caroline st. elevation. The remaining bays are a one-story aisle with double doors in the first bay from right proper and double rectangular windows in the others. Above them is a clerestory with double lancet windows in each bay. Buttresses separate all the bays on both elevations.

SIGNIFICANCE:

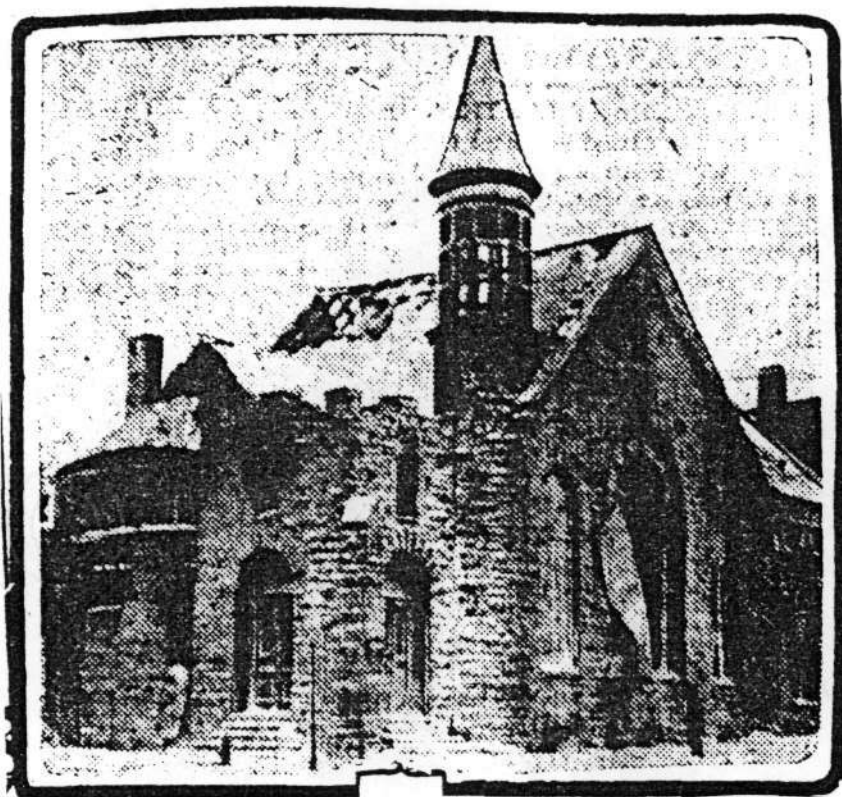
AREA: Architecture

LEVEL: Local

The Oliver area is marked by great religious diversity in the large number of surviving churches, of which the Lutheran Church of the Reformation is the only Lutheran example. The congregation began as a mission of the Lutheran Church Extension Society in 1890. A temporary chapel was constructed on the present lot, and replaced in 1892-93 with a building planned by A.B. Jennings of New York. This church was gutted by fire during a severe snowstorm on 2 March 1914, but plans were already being made to replace it with a larger structure. The cornerstone of the present structure was laid on 27 September 1914 after a delay in building the foundation caused by flaws in the ground. They were remedied by driving 115-120 concrete piles, many over 100 feet long, into the ground. John Hiltz & Sons was the contractor and J.E. Laferty the architect. Laferty worked as a draftsman from about 1885-1893, at least in part with local architect William F. Weber, before starting his own architecture practice from 1894 to 1924/25. There are several other known buildings of Laferty's design in Oliver, including North Avenue M.E. Church (B-3986) and the Clifton Savings Bank (B-3976). The new church, 80 x 90 feet and also of Port Deposit granite, was dedicated on 16 May 1915 and cost \$70,000. Described at the time as "Collegiate Gothic," it seated 550 persons in the auditorium and 120 in the rear gallery. It became Zion Baptist Church in 1954 and remains that today.

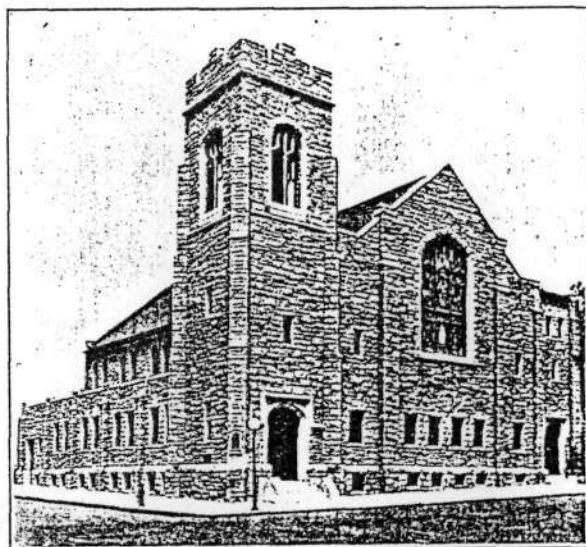
SOURCES: American: 5-20-1893; Sun: 5-22-1893, 3-3-1914, 4-11-1914, 5-1-1914, 9-26-1914, 5-17-1915; Eve. Sun: 9-25-1914.

SURVEYOR AND DATE: Kenneth M. Short, August, 1987



The English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation (B-3983)

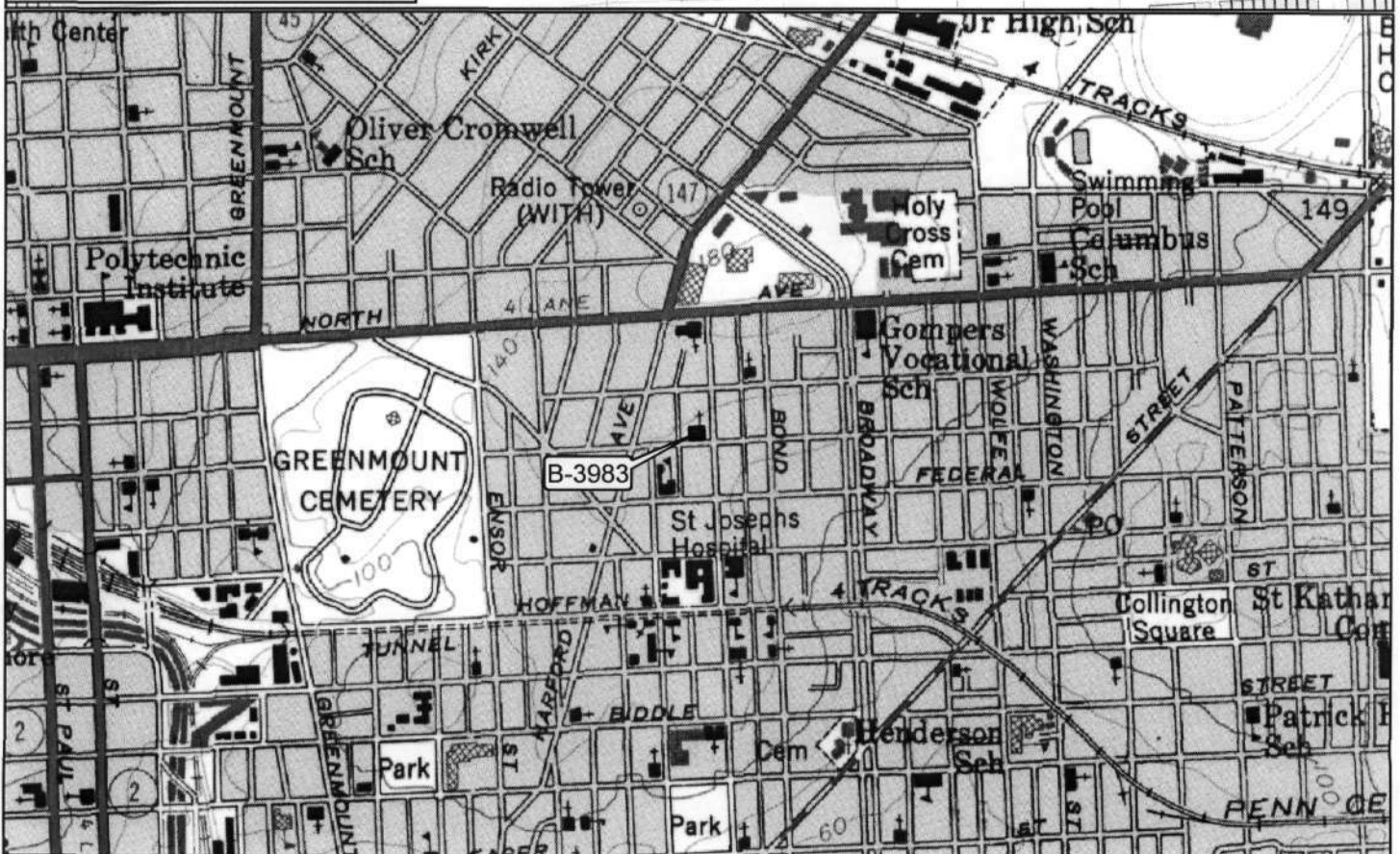
The American, Baltimore, March 3, 1914, p.7, col.2.



The English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation (B-3983)

Rev. Abdel Ross Wentz, History of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Maryland 1820-1920, (Harrisburg, Pa.: Evangelical Press, 1920), p.229.

B-3983
English Evangelical Lutheran Church (Zion Baptist Church)
1700 N. Caroline Street
Block 1107 Lot 043
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation
E-3983

1700 North Caroline Street

Baltimore, Maryland

Photographer: Janet Davis

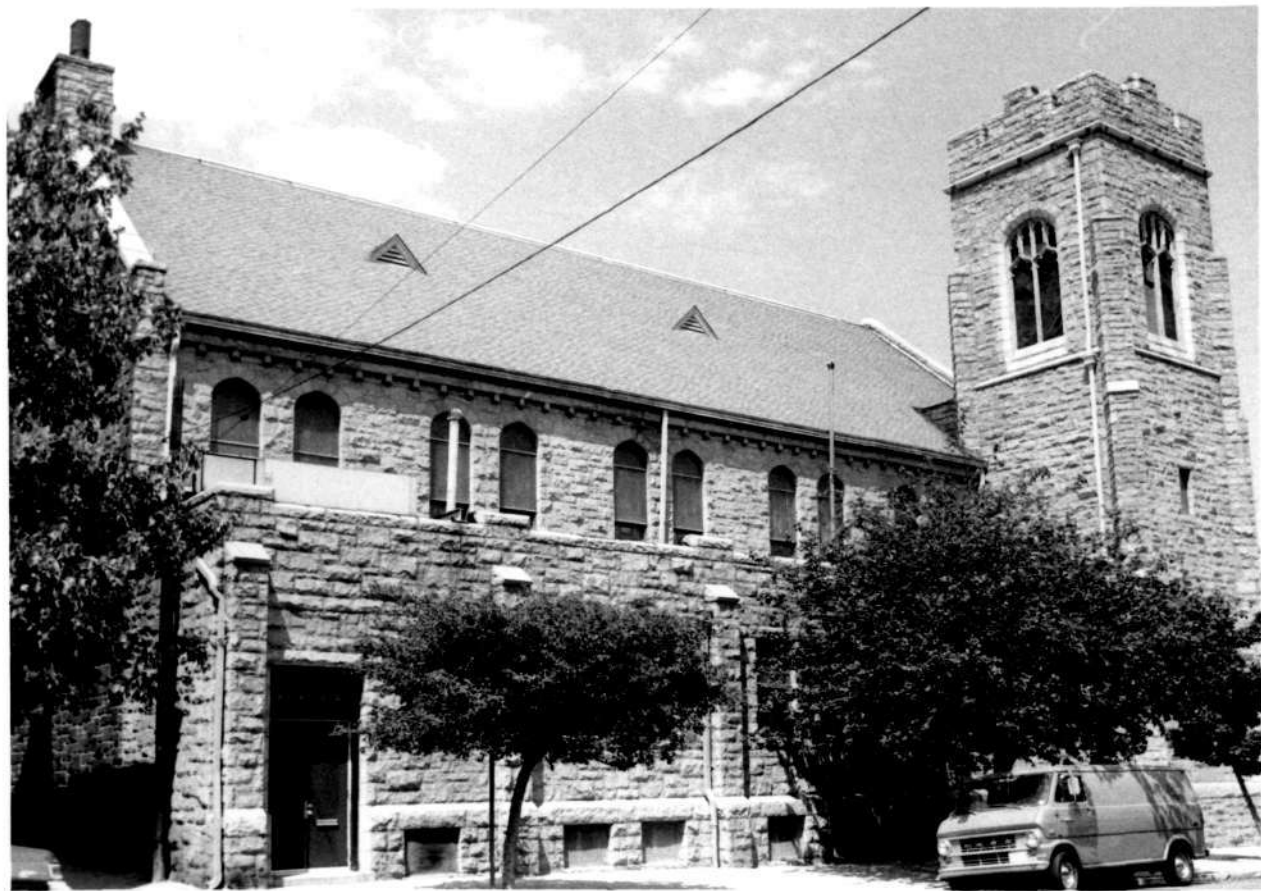
July 1987

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO

East elevation

1/2

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English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation

B-3983

1700 North Caroline Street

Baltimore, Maryland

Photographer: Janet Davis

July 1987

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO

South elevation

2/2